

**Memorandum of the Meeting
Regular Study Session
Twenty-Seventh Town Council of Highland
Monday, December 17, 2012**

The regular study session of the Twenty-Seventh Town Council of the Town of Highland was convened at the regular place, the Highland Municipal Building, 3333 Ridge Road, Highland, Indiana, in the council meeting room on Monday, December 17, 2012 at 7:10 o'clock p.m., immediately following a special business meeting of the Town Council.

Silent Roll Call: Councilors Bernie Zemen, Brian Novak, Konnie Kuiper and Dan Vassar were present. Councilor Mark Herak was absent owing delay of traffic. The Town Clerk-Treasurer, Michael W. Griffin, was present to memorialize the proceedings. A quorum was attained.

Staff present: Rhett Tauber, Town Attorney; Jared Tauber, Tauber Law Offices; Peter Hojnicki, Metropolitan Police Chief; John M. Bach, Public Works Director; Cecile Petro, Redevelopment Director; Kenneth J. Mika, Building Commissioner; and Ed Dabrowski, IT (Contract) Director.

Also Present: Dennis Adams and Larry Moes of the Town Board of Metropolitan Police Commissioners; and Greg Kuzmar and Mike Maloney of the Redevelopment Commission were also present.

Guest: Scott Cherry, Vice President with Skillman Corporation was also present.

General Substance of Matters Discussed:

1. Scott Cherry, Vice President with Skillman Corporation discussed the merits of engaging construction management services related to the proposed projects of constructing a new public safety facility and a new Town Hall. Mr. Cherry indicated that he had reviewed some of the reports and work product related to the possible construction of a public safety facility, including the report of the special architects, Wilson-Estes, that had been engaged to perform a preliminary assessment and rendered some nascent designs. Mr. Cherry indicated that he would be pleased to present some of his impressions and suggestions regarding the proposed project, based upon his review. This consultation would be without charge to the Town. Mr. Cherry did indicate that Skillman was interested in being engaged to provide construction management services for this project. It was noted that a discussion and presentation at a later meeting between the Town Council and the Skillman Corp was desirable. It was noted that Skillman Corporation provided the management services for the reconstruction of the Lincoln Community Center.

Councilor Herak arrived and joined the meeting at 7:21 p.m.

2. The Town Council, the Public Works Director, the Building Commissioner, Redevelopment Commissioner Mike Maloney and the Town Attorney engaged in a colloquy regarding the possibility of erecting an aesthetic barrier or fence at the Arzumanian Landscaping located at 8210 Indianapolis Boulevard. It was noted that the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT), which had just concluded a reconstruction of US 41 between Ridge Road and the Little Calumet River, by its redesign, noted that the business became more visible.

The discussion included the status of any code enforcement conducted on Arzumanian Landscaping, noting that the business seemed to impinge upon state right of way. It was further noted that INDOT seemed not as enthusiastic to enforce against the encroachment by the business. The discussion included the division of authority

between the Town and the State regarding the authority to remove the business from the right of way. The discussion included concerns regarding that site is near an entrance to the Town and the Arzumanian Landscaping and Landscaping is challenged aesthetically. It was further noted that Arzumanian was occupying the location as a legal non-conforming use.

The discussion included conferring with representatives from INDOT and perhaps a the owners of Stan's Bait Shop, which is an adjoining property, to determine if an obstructing barrier such as a fence could be erected by the Town of the State.

Members of the Town Council expressed urgency in fashioning a corrective action regarding the concerns raised during the colloquy. Members of staff indicated that they would follow-up with INDOT and would contact the neighboring property owners.

The Town Attorney, Mr. Tauber, departed at this time.

3. The Town Council reviewed the introduced Ordinance No. 1530 regarding refashioning of the Town Council election districts (wards) pursuant to the requirements of IC 36-5-2-4.1 (g)(1). The Town Council informally discussed the proposed map and no objections were raised.
4. The Metropolitan Police Chief discussed concerns he raised regarding budgetary constraints and the objective of hiring officers up to the strength of 38 officers. The Chief noted that the 2013 budget is not at risk. The Chief expressed concerns regarding his future budget constraints, suggesting that 2013 and 2014 will present a problem if "veteran" rather than rookie officers are appointed. Based upon existing departmental rules, "veteran" officers will rise in compensation more quickly and may also have higher costs of benefits, than rookie recruits, which present a budgetary challenge, the Metropolitan Police Chief opined.

The discussion included looking for new ways to augment the force by implementing a police reserve program. The discussion included a review of the merits of hiring a new recruit versus a veteran officer. It was noted that three recent new recruits were separated from the department.

There being no further matters to discuss before the Town Council, the regular study session of the Town Council, of **Monday, December 17, 2012**, was adjourned 8:19 o'clock p.m.

Michael W. Griffin, IAMC/MMC/CPFA/CPFIM
Clerk-Treasurer